



## U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Wisconsin

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July 22, 2003

### NEWS SUMMARY: **Waukesha Resident Charged with Smuggling Endangered Wildlife Into the United States**

On July 22, 2003, United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced that a grand jury sitting in the Eastern District of Wisconsin had returned an indictment against **Leong Tian Kum** (3/21/69), a resident of Bangkok, Thailand, and **Reid E. Turowski** (12/9/74), the owner of a reptile business in Waukesha, Wisconsin, known as Captive Bred Specialties, on charges relating to the smuggling of live, protected, and endangered wildlife into the United States from Thailand.

United States Attorney Biskupic explained that the undeclared wildlife was shipped into the United States in Federal Express packages which had been labeled as containing only wooden art or crafts and that the wildlife was not accompanied by permits required under federal law and an international treaty known as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). United States Attorney Biskupic announced that the wildlife included 6 Radiated tortoises, 22 Indian star tortoises, 2 Emerald tree monitors, 7 Burmese star tortoises, 4 Pancake tortoises, 8 Hermann's tortoises, 1 Borneo Black Leaf turtle, 1 Elongated tortoise, 1 Green Tree python, 67 Snake-necked turtles, 48 Chinese water dragons, and 8 Fly River turtles.

If convicted, the defendants would face the following maximum penalties:

Ct.	Def.	Charge	Max. Penalty
1	Kum Turowski	Conspiracy to smuggle & falsely label wildlife, trade in endangered species, and launder money – 18 U.S.C. § 371	5 years / \$250,000
2	Kum	Money Laundering – 12/19/02 wire to Thailand 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(2)(A)	20 years / \$500,000
3-5	Kum	Smuggling – 1/14/03, 4/21/03 & 6/9/03 shipments of wildlife 18 U.S.C. § 545	5 years / \$250,000
6-8	Kum Turowski	Smuggling – 4/21/03, 5/6/03 & 6/23/03 shipments of wildlife 18 U.S.C. § 545	5 years / \$250,000
9-11	Kum Turowski	False Labeling – 4/21/03, 5/6/03 & 6/23/03 shipments 16 U.S.C. §§ 3372(d)(1) & 3373(d)(3)(A)(i)	5 years / \$250,000
12	Kum Turowski	Money Laundering – 5/9/03 payment by Turowski 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(2)(A)	20 years / \$500,000
13	Turowski	False statement to U.S. Fish & Wildlife – 18 U.S.C. § 1001	5 years / \$250,000

This case was investigated by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Immigration & Customs Enforcement. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Richard G. Frohling for prosecution.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the formal method of returning charges against an individual and does not constitute inference of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government established his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

For more information regarding international wildlife trafficking or to view photos of the species at issue, resources are available on the internet, including at [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org), [www.chelonia.org](http://www.chelonia.org), and [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org).

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